

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A photographing operation control device for an electronic still camera, comprising:

a buffer memory that temporarily stores image data obtained through a photographing optical system; ~~and~~

a blank photographing operation performing processor that performs a photographing operation in a blank photographing mode, such that upon photographing, said image data is stored in said buffer memory without being stored in a recording medium, when no recording medium is installed in the electronic still camera, when a recording medium without a blank recording area sufficient to store said image data is installed in the electronic still camera, and when a recording medium, having a blank recording area sufficient to store said image data, is installed in the electronic still camera;

a recording medium sensing processor that senses whether the recording medium is mounted;

a blank recording area sensing processor that senses whether a blank recording area exists in the recording medium;

a normal photographing operation performing processor that performs a photographing operation in a normal photographing mode in which, after storing said image data in said buffer memory, said image data is read from said buffer memory and recorded in the recording medium; and

a photographing mode selecting processor that selects one of said blank photographing mode and said normal photographing mode, said photographing mode selecting processor being able to select said blank photographing mode when said recording medium sensing processor and said blank recording area sensing processor sense that the recording medium having the blank recording area is installed in said device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said photographing mode selecting processor comprises a photographing mode set switch, by which said blank photographing mode is set, and which is provided in a camera body of the electronic still camera.

4. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~further comprising a recording medium sensing processor that senses whether the recording medium is mounted,~~ wherein said blank photographing operation performing processor

P19601.A05

~~performing~~ performs said a photographing operation in said blank photographing mode when said recording medium sensing processor senses that said recording medium is not mounted.

5. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~further comprising a blank recording area sensing processor that senses whether a blank recording area exists in the recording medium;~~ wherein said blank photographing operation performing processor ~~performing~~ performs said photographing operation in said blank photographing mode when said blank recording area sensing processor senses that the recording medium has no blank recording area.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, further comprising an image data transfer processor that transfers said image data stored in said buffer to the recording medium.

8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 7, ~~further comprising a normal photographing operation performing processor that performs a photographing operation in a normal photographing mode in which, after storing said image data in said buffer memory, reads said image data from said buffer~~

P19601.A05

~~memory, and records said image data in the recording medium, wherein~~ said image data transfer processor transfers said image data to ~~said~~ the recording medium when said normal photographing mode is set.

9. (Original) A device according to claim 1, further comprising a mode informing processor that informs that said blank photographing mode is set.

10. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, further comprising a ~~recording medium sensing processor that senses whether the recording medium is mounted and~~ a non-mounting condition informing processor that informs that the recording medium is not mounted.

11. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, further comprising a ~~blank recording area sensing processor that senses whether a blank recording area exists in the recording medium and~~ a non-existing condition informing processor that informs that the recording medium has no blank recording area.

12. (Canceled)

P19601.A05

13. (New) A photographing operation control device for an electronic still camera, comprising:

a system controller;

a buffer memory for storing image data;

a photographing mode set switch for switching a photographing operation between a normal photographing mode and a blank photographing mode,

wherein, when said photographing operation is set to said normal photographing mode and an image is photographed, said system controller temporarily stores image data in said buffer memory and subsequently automatically transfers said image data to a recording medium,

when said photographing operation is set to said blank photographing mode and an image is photographed, said system controller stores image data in said buffer memory and does not automatically transfer said image data to a recording medium, and

when said system controller determines that a recording medium is not installed in said electronic still camera, or a recording medium is installed but does include a blank recording area sufficient to store image data, said system controller automatically sets said photographing operation to said blank photographing mode.